

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

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HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 1904-1905.

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ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 30th November 1904.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P.,  
President, in the Chair.

Dr D. Hay Fleming and Rev. Francis Gebbie were appointed  
Scrutineers of the Ballot for the election of Office-Bearers and Councillors.

The Ballot having been concluded, the Scrutineers found and declared  
the List of the Council for the ensuing year to be as follows:—

*President.*

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT E. MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P.

*Vice-Presidents.*

ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., LL.D.

Lieut.-Col. A. B. M<sup>c</sup>HARDY, C.B.

The Right Hon. LORD BALCARRES.

*Councillors.*

|   |  |                                  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Sir ARTHUR MITCHELL,<br>K.C.B., M.D., LL.D.,                          | } <i>Representing<br/>the Board<br/>of Trustees.</i> | Prof. P. HUME BROWN, M.A., LL.D. |
| The Hon. HEW HAMIL-<br>TON DALRYMPLE,                                 |  | Prof. G. BALDWIN BROWN.          |
| Sir KENNETH J. MACKENZIE, Bart.,<br><i>Representing the Treasury.</i> |  | Right Rev. JOHN DOWDEN, D.D.     |
| WILLIAM GARSON, W.S.  |  | JAMES ROBERT REID.               |
| JOHN M. HOWDEN.   |  | Sir JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, Bart. |
|   |  | Sir GEORGE DOUGLAS, Bart.        |
|   |  | ALEXANDER O. CURLE, W.S.         |

*Secretaries.*

DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D. | The Hon. JOHN ABERCROMBY.

*For Foreign Correspondence.*

WILLIAM K. DICKSON. | Prof. A. H. SAYCE, M.A., LL.D., D.D.

*Treasurer.*

JOHN NOTMAN, F.F.A., 28 St Andrew Square.

*Curators of the Museum.*

Professor DUNS, D.D. | ALEXANDER J. S. BROOK.

*Curator of Coins.*

GEORGE MACDONALD, M.A.

*Librarian.*

JAMES CURLE.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows:—

Lieut.-Col. ROBERT MACKENZIE HOLDEN, 4th Bn. The Cameronians,  
United Service Club, London.

GEORGE LOWSON, LL.D., Rector of the High School, 14 Park Place,  
Stirling.

WILLIAM COOK MACKENZIE, Lutha, Selborne Road, Sidecup, Kent.

J. L. MOUNSEY, W.S., Professor of Conveyancing, University of Edinburgh,  
24 Glencairn Crescent.

W. T. OLDRIEVE, H.M. Office of Works.

ALEX. L. DICK PEDDIE, W.S., 7 Randolph Cliff.

Rev. HERBERT PENTIN, M.A., V.P. of the Dorset Nat. Hist. and Antiquarian Field Club, Milton Abbey Vicarage, Dorset.

Rev. JAS. HAY SCOTT, Minister of the U.F. Church, Sanquhar.

Capt. GEORGE F. VILLIERS, 3rd R.S. Fusiliers, County Club, Ayr.

The meeting resolved to record their sense of the loss the Society had sustained in the deaths of the following Members deceased since last Annual Meeting:—

*Fellows.*

|   | Elected |
|---|---------|
| ANDREW AIKMAN, 6 Drumsheugh Gardens, . . . . .  | 1887    |
| JOHN T. BEER, Green Heys, Rock Ferry, Cheshire, . . . . .   | 1872    |
| GEORGE GODFREY CUNNINGHAM, Liberton Tower, Liberton, . . . . .                                    | 1898    |
| DAVID DEUCHAR, 12 Hope Terrace, . . . . .   | 1882    |
| THOMAS DICKSON, LL.D., 26 Stafford Street, . . . . .  | 1870    |
| WILLIAM FERGUSON, LL.D., of Kinmundy, Aberdeenshire, . . . . .                                    | 1872    |
| Major-General J. G. ROCHE FORLONG, 11 Douglas Crescent, . . . . .                                 | 1880    |
| Sir PETER ARTHUR HALKETT, Bart., of Pitfirrane, Dunfermline, . . . . .                            | 1882    |
| JAMES HENRY LAMB, The Latch, Brechin, . . . . .   | 1884    |
| THOMAS GRAVES LAW, LL.D., Librarian of the Signet Library,<br><i>Foreign Secretary,</i> . . . . . | 1885    |
| Rev. THOMAS LEISHMAN, D.D., 4 Douglas Crescent, . . . . .   | 1871    |
| STEWART M'GLASHAN, Sculptor, Brandon Street, . . . . .  | 1885    |
| Right Hon. VISCOUNT MELVILLE, Melville Castle, Midlothian, . . . . .                              | 1887    |
| ROBERT MILLER, J.P., 38 Lauder Road, . . . . .  | 1896    |
| JOHN O. MITCHELL, LL.D., 7 Huntly Gardens, Glasgow, . . . . .                                     | 1890    |
| ERSKINE NICOL, R.S.A., The Dell, Feltham, Middlesex, . . . . .                                    | 1861    |
| CHARLES LINDSAY ORR-EWING, M.P., Dunskey, Portpatrick, . . . . .                                  | 1901    |
| GEORGE PETRIE, Solicitor, Castle Chambers, Dundee, . . . . .                                      | 1889    |
| Rev. WALTER J. B. RICHARDS, D.D., Montfort, Clacton-on-Sea, . . . . .                             | 1891    |
| Rev. WILLIAM ROSS, Cowcaddens U.F. Church, Glasgow, . . . . .                                     | 1867    |
| Right Hon. LORD SHAND, 32 Bryanston Square, London, . . . . .                                     | 1869    |
| ADAM SKIRVING, of Croys, Dalbeattie, . . . . .  | 1877    |
| JAMES T. SMITH, of Duloch, Inverkeithing, . . . . .   | 1877    |
| The Right Hon. The EARL OF STAIR, K.T., LL.D., Oxenfoord Castle, . . . . .                        | 1872    |
| The Right Hon. The EARL OF STRATHMORE, Glamis Castle, . . . . .                                   | 1867    |
| THOMAS STEEDMAN, Clydesdale Bank, Kinross, . . . . .  | 1885    |
| PETER STURROCK, London Road, Kilmarnock, . . . . .  | 1882    |
| LOCKHART THOMSON, S.S.C., 114 George Street, . . . . .  | 1867    |
| Rev. JOHN WILSON, M.A., D.D., Methven, . . . . .  | 1898    |

Dr Christison, Secretary, read the following Report on the progress and work of the Society during the past year :—

*The Roll of Membership.*—In the report on the progress of the Society two years ago it was shown that the strength of the Fellows was then 706, and that it had varied in the previous ten years from 685 to 740 ; also that the annual loss from deaths, lapses, and resignations had averaged 36. Hence it is necessary to bring in that number of recruits annually if we are to keep up an average strength of about 700. Since then we have not succeeded in doing this, for although Mr Abercromby was able last year to announce a net gain in 1902-3 of 4, the losses having been 30 and the admissions 34, in 1903-4 there has been a deficiency of no less than 18, the losses having been 47, caused by 28 deaths, 14 resignations, and 3 lapses, and the admissions 29, making a net loss of 14 in two years, and reducing the number of Fellows to 692. It behoves, therefore, the members of the Society to make every effort to induce their friends to join our body.

A large proportion of our losses consist of resignations ; and whatever may be the cause, I do not think it can be due to any falling off in our activity, or in the attractiveness of our work. The Excavations, both of Roman and Native remains, undertaken by the Society during the last eight years, have been an almost new development, which could hardly fail to add to our prestige, and the Papers read to the Society do not seem to me to be less interesting than of yore.

The increasing use of Limelight Illustrations, too, has enabled many of the more important papers to be expounded with greater facility and in a more attractive form than was possible formerly, without in the least detracting from their scientific value. I think it is worth consideration, however, whether a time-limit should not be enforced in the reading of the papers. It must often have been noticed that the interest of the audience flags under the crushing load of a mass of details which ought to be reserved for publication ; and, what is even worse, the other papers set down for reading are either crushed out altogether, or are

hurriedly read after the majority of the audience have taken to flight. The art of reading on paper in brief is not difficult, but unfortunately authors are apt to feel the necessity for it in regard to all papers but their own.

*Publications.*—The Thirty-eighth Volume of *Proceedings*, of which an advance copy is laid on the table, contains 23 papers, of which 12 deal with prehistoric subjects, 6 are in the borderland between History and Prehistory, and 5 appertain to mediæval or later times. The Session was opened with a paper by Dr Thomas H. Bryce on the Cairns of Bute, in continuation of his interesting investigation of Cairns in the South-Western Highlands and Islands. Mr Coles has also continued his investigations, under the Gunning Fellowship, of Stone Circles in the North-east of Scotland. But the most novel and important paper of the year was contributed by Mr Abercromby. In last year's report Mr Abercromby pointed out that in the Museum "there are whole classes of objects that seem to cry out for some one to take a special interest in them and assign them a definite place in time": and choosing for his subject the "Drinking Cup" or "Beaker" class of Urns, he has now led the way in this important and difficult task. It is an advantage of this kind of undertaking that it gathers together information about widely scattered materials, which thus become easily available for study, not only by the original investigators at the time, but by others in future. This valuable aid to scientific research has been amply provided in this instance by Mr Abercromby, whose paper is illustrated by photographs of no fewer than 171 "Beaker" urns; and if his ingenious classification may prove to be provisional, he at least deserves all the credit due to the first attempt to grapple with a very difficult problem.

*Early Christian Monuments of Scotland.*—After eight years employed in collecting, arranging, and editing the vast body of materials for this handsome volume, the Society may now be congratulated on its publication, which took place in the autumn of 1903. Of the numerous services

rendered in the field of antiquarian research by Dr Joseph Anderson and Mr Romilly Allen, none rank higher than the editing of this great work, willingly undertaken by them for the very moderate remuneration that it was in the power of the Society to offer. The truly scientific and exhaustive treatment of the subject, the attention given to the minutest details, and the fidelity of the vast number of illustrations, combine to give this volume a very high place among the contributions made, at any time, to our knowledge of Scottish Archaeology. An undertaking involving so great an expenditure of time and labour, including, among other difficulties, travel to, and obtaining numerous photographs from, the remotest parts of Scotland, could not fail to be expensive; and as a scientific work of the kind appeals to but a small *clientèle*, it could not possibly be made remunerative. In round numbers, the total expenditure has amounted to £2240, of which £710 was defrayed from the Rhind Lectureship Fund and the Gunning Jubilee Gift. The remaining £1530 had to be met from time to time from the ordinary funds of the Society, of which £750 has been recouped by the sales of the volume. The deficit of £780 was paid partly from the balances in our favour of our annual income, so that no very serious inroad was made upon our accumulated capital.

It is gratifying to be able to record that the volume has been well received by the public. Of the issue, limited to 400 copies, 314 have been sold, and adding 20 distributed gratis, 66 remain upon our hands—not too large a stock for a standard work, which it is scarcely possible to imagine will ever require a second edition.

*Roman Excavations.*—The excavation of Rough Castle, one of the forts on the Antonine Vallum, was accomplished by the Society in 1903, but as the report could not be got ready for last Session it does not appear in the forthcoming volume of the *Proceedings*, and it will be laid before you in the course of the present Session. Rough Castle proved to be a very strong earthwork; and among the more notable results of the investigation may be mentioned the fine sections of the turf ramparts

obtained both in it and the Antonine Vallum, and the unique discovery of rows of "Lilia" pits, similar to those described by Cæsar as having been used to defend his lines of circumvallation at the siege of Alesia in Gaul.

A very interesting Roman excavation was accomplished also in 1903, although not by the Society, at Barhill, another of the forts on the Vallum. Mr Alexander Park, factor on the estate of Gartshore, on which Barhill is situated, stimulated by our investigation of Castlecary, made some explorations, which proved so promising that Mr Whitelaw, the proprietor, sanctioned a complete excavation of the site, which was ably carried out under the zealous superintendence of Mr Park and Mr Mackintosh, the farmer of the ground. A full account of the results will be laid before you in the present Session; and I need say no more at present than that the relics found at Barhill exceed in number and variety those discovered in any previous excavation of Roman forts in Scotland.

The Council hope to be able to recommence our Roman work this Session by making some explorations of the Station at Newstead, near Melrose.

*British Excavations.*—The forthcoming volume of *Proceedings* contains accounts of several enterprises under the Fund instituted by Mr Abercromby for British excavations. Besides the Cairns in Bute examined by Dr Bryce, already noticed, remains of various kinds at Dinnet, Meikleour, Perthshire, Aberdeenshire, and in Shetland were investigated by Mr Abercromby and Dr Munro. From the same fund were defrayed the expenses connected with the excavations of Stone Circles in Aberdeenshire by Mr Coles. A larger and more recent application of the Fund was in the investigation of four forts on the estate of Poltalloch, Argyll. Three of these—Ardifour, Duntroon, and the fort on Druim an Duin—have been finished; the fourth, Dunadd, is well-nigh completed; and the whole will be described in the present Session. The results, particularly at Dunadd, believed to be the ancient

capital of Dalriada, have amply justified the devotion for the first time of a part of the Fund to this class of remains.

*Museum.*—Among the more important acquisitions for the National Museum were two Collections, both chiefly of stone implements, and from the North-East of Scotland. The first of these was bequeathed by the late Mr William Boyd, M.A., F.S.A.Scot. It includes 47 perfect flint arrow-heads, 21 polished stone axes, and 3 stone balls with projecting discs, also 8 lighting appliances, a miscellaneous lot of 50 articles, and a foreign set of 20.

The second was acquired by purchase, and consists of 156 arrow-heads, 11 stone axes, 3 stone balls with projecting discs, and 1 perforated hammer from Scotland; besides 16 large oval flint implements from Montana, U.S.

The additions to our collection of urns this year include several of the round-bottomed type, one "beaker" and one "food-vessel" from Dr Bryce's excavations in Bute, and another of the food-vessel type from Rosemarkie, recovered by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.

Many other prehistoric articles have been added this year by donation or purchase. But for once the additions to our prehistoric department have been eclipsed by the acquisition of a relic of historic times.

For the last twenty-five years the so-called "Queen Mary" harp and the Lamont harp, the property of the Stuarts of Dalguise, had lain on deposit in the Museum, an early offer to purchase them having been declined, on the ground that they were family heirlooms. But the direct line having recently become extinct, the heirs resolved to part with them, and, with scant courtesy, the first intimation of their purpose that we got was seeing the advertisement for their sale by auction, within so short a period that the Council had very little time to approach the Treasury for a special grant for their purchase. This was done, however, and a sum of £1000 was granted for the acquisition of one or both of the harps. But the conditions attached to the grant were so onerous that it was only with much hesitation and under protest that



the Council agreed to accept them. Only £400 was actually granted, the remaining £600 being made up by withholding for three years the annual grant of £200 for ordinary purchases of objects for the Museum and books for the Library.

The grant only sufficed for the purchase of the "Mary" harp, and £890 had to be paid for it. The price was unfortunately enhanced by the quite mythical attribution to Queen Mary; but, for us, the value of the harp consisted not in this, but in its being one of the three ancient harps existing in the United Kingdom, and in the beautiful Celtic carving which adorned it. The Council therefore felt that it would be a national loss if so fine and rare a relic were not acquired for the Museum, at however great a price.

The carving is difficult to make out now upon the harp itself; but a Fellow of the Society, Mr Robert Bruce Armstrong, with singular skill and patience, has traced the design with a needle-point on sheets of gelatine, and has produced a complete illustration of the harp and its decoration in coloured plates in his newly published beautiful volume, *The Irish and Highland Harps*, a copy of which he has presented to the Society, and which now lies on the table.

As the arrangement made with the Treasury was *pro rata*, the balance of £110 was returned to us, so that we were only mulcted in £90 for the present year; but we have the prospect of getting nothing for the next two years, so that for this long period the progress of the National Museum will be completely paralysed, unless the Treasury can be induced to repeal these obnoxious conditions.

*Report of the Departmental Committee upon the Board of Manufactures.*  
—In so far as this Report regards the National Museum of Antiquities, the Committee have made three important recommendations, founded upon the evidence of our President, who was the only member of the Society summoned before them:—

1. That the Society of Antiquaries should have the right of nominating one member of the reconstituted Board of Trustees.

2. That the annual grant of £200 for ordinary purchases of objects for the Museum, and the purchase and binding of books for the Library, should be made permanent, instead of being, as hitherto, renewable for a term of years.

3. That an addition of £200 a year should be made to the grant for maintenance.

The Council are encouraged to hope that these recommendations will be adopted.

The Treasurer submitted a statement of the Society's funds, which was ordered to be printed and circulated among the members.

The Secretary read the Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, as follows :—

ANNUAL REPORT to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with reference to the National Museum of Antiquities under their charge, for the year ending 30th September 1904 :—

During the past year the Museum has been open to the public as formerly, and has been visited by 15,674 persons, of whom 1189 were visitors on pay days and 14,485 on free days.

The number of objects of antiquity added to the Museum during the year has been 543 by donation and 270 by purchase. The number of books added to the Library has been 149 by donation and 28 by purchase.

Among the more important additions to the Museum during the past year may be mentioned the ancient Scottish Harp, purchased at the Dalguise Sale with the aid of a special grant from the Treasury, and the Collection bequeathed by the late Mr William Boyd, F.S.A. Scot., consisting of 395 specimens, chiefly from the Buchan district of Aberdeenshire.

D. CHRISTISON, *Secretary.*

MONDAY, 12th December 1904.

ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., LL.D., Vice-President,  
in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected  
Fellows:—

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Col. JAMES ARNOTT, M.D., 7 Rothesay Place.

FRANCIS CAROLUS EELES, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot., Munross, Stonehaven,  
and 105 Adelaide Road, London.

Sir SIMON MACDONALD LOCKHART, Bart., of Lee and Carnwath, The Lee,  
Lanark.

JAMES INGALL WEDGWOOD, 36 Lord Mayor's Walk, York.

The following articles, acquired by the Purchase Committee for the  
Museum during the recess, 9th May to 30th November 1904, were  
exhibited:—

Large spheroidal Bronze Caldron, measuring 21 inches across the  
mouth and  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches in depth, dug up in draining on the farm of  
Hattonknowe, on the estate of Darnhall, in the parish of Eddleston,  
Peeblesshire, and recovered by the King's Remembrancer. [See the  
subsequent communication by Mr William Buchan, F.S.A. Scot.]

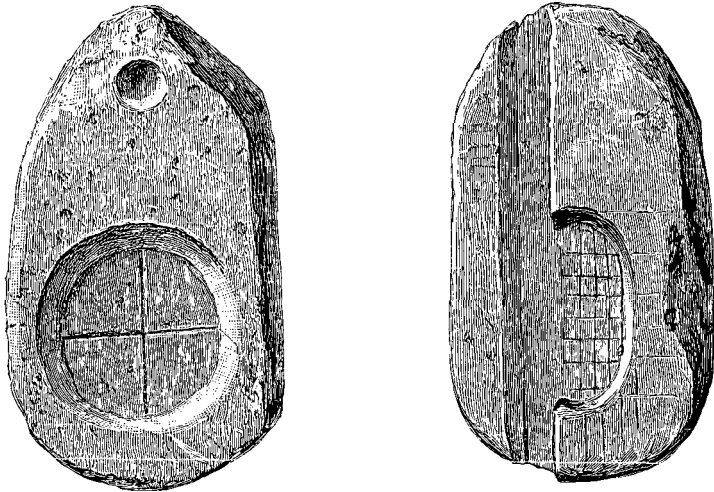
Sepulchral Urn of the Beaker or Drinking Cup type, measuring  $7\frac{3}{4}$   
inches in height by  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter at the mouth and 3 inches at  
the base, found in a cist with an unburnt interment at Acharole, West  
Watten, Caithness, and recovered by the King's Remembrancer.

Small Collection of Flint Implements, etc., including a narrow leaf-  
shaped arrow-head, 2 inches in length, an arrow-head with barbs and  
stem,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length and  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch in width at the base,  
and a small thick leaf-shaped arrow-head of red flint, part of a  
fabricator,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length, part of a flint knife,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length,  
worked on one face only, several flakes of flint, one small amber bead,

and a whorl of grey sandstone,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches diameter, found in ploughed fields at Nether Bonchester, near Hawick.

A small steel Crank-key for a watch.

Collection of Flint Implements from Torrs, Glenluce, consisting of four arrow-heads with barbs and stems, one large lozenge-shaped arrow-head, six point-ends of broken leaf-shaped arrow-heads, three portions of



Figs. 1 and 2. Obverse and reverse of Stone Mould found at Bennybeg, near Crieff. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)

knives, worked on one face only, one borer,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, one fabricator,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, five scrapers, and several flakes.

Stone Mould of greenstone (figs. 1, 2),  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length by  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches in width and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness, having on one face a nearly circular moulding cavity,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter, and on the other face a long ingot-like moulding cavity, with a flat oval cavity adjoining it, having chequer markings in the bottom, but not of the same depth. It was found in opening a quarry at Bennybeg, near Crieff.

A small conical jar of reddish ware, imperfect at the mouth, and measuring  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter at the bottom, tapering from the bottom to the mouth, where it is narrowest, the loop handle wanting, the exterior showing remains of a yellowish-green glaze. When found it contained 450 coins, of which nine were pennies of Alexander III., and the bulk of the rest were English pennies of Edward I. and Edward II., with a few foreign sterlings. The occasion of its discovery was the excavation of a sewage drain in Eastcroft Park, Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire. [See the subsequent communication by Mr George Macdonald.]

The following Donations to the Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1) By J. H. MACADAM, F.S.A. Scot., the Editor.

The Baxter Books of St Andrews, 1548–1861. 8vo. 1904.

(2) By ROBERT BRUCE ARMSTRONG, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Musical Instruments. Part I.—The Irish and Highland Harps. 4to. 1904.

(3) By D. MACRITCHIE, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Shelta—The Caird's Language. Reprint. 8vo. Pp. 40.

(4) By ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., LL.D., *Vice-President*, the Author.

On the Date of the Upheaval which caused the Twenty-five-foot Raised Beaches in Central Scotland. Reprint from *Proceedings* of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. 8vo. Pp. 30.

(5) By THOMAS MAY, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Warrington's Roman Remains—Fortifications, Potters' Kilns, Iron and Glass Furnaces, and Bronze Founders' and Enamellers' Workshops. 4to. 1894.

(6) By P. M. C. KERMODE, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Traces of the Norse Mythology in the Isle of Man. 8vo. 1904.

(7) By W. C. MACKENZIE, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

History of the Outer Hebrides. (Special Edition.) 8vo. 1903.

The following Communications were read :—